

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A tool for facilitating breakage of the neck of a glass vial and protecting the operator from injury to the fingers, the tool comprising:

a box structure for containing at least one glass vial with a neck to be broken, said box structure having at least one vial-breaking tool located therein, said at least one vial-breaking tool comprising a strip of cardboard, said strip of cardboard defining a hole in a center position thereof for receiving the neck of the glass vial, said strip having at least one ~~weakened area~~ transverse folding area defining a transverse fold coinciding with said hole, said strip being folded along said transverse fold such that two leaves are formed when said at least one vial-breaking tool is located at a position outside of said box structure, one leaf being opposite another leaf when said strip is folded along said transverse fold when said at least one vial-breaking tool is located at a position outside of said box structure, each leaf being arranged adjacent to the neck of the glass vial when said glass vial is inserted into said hole, each leaf defining finger engaging portions, each leaf defining a means for receiving a vial breaking force in an area of said finger engaging portions such that the neck of the glass vial breaks when said at least one vial-breaking tool is located at said position outside of said box structure.

2. (Withdrawn) Tool according to claim 1, wherein the two leaves are joined together at the ends opposite to the hole.

3. (Withdrawn) Tool according to claim 1, wherein each of the two leaves has a first

weakening for a transverse fold at a small distance from said hole for adaptation to the shape of the vial.

4. (Withdrawn) Tool according to claim 3, wherein each of the two leaves also has a second further weakening for a transverse fold at a greater distance from said hole than said first weakening for a transverse fold, so as to allow inward bending of the cardboard between the two leaves in order to adapt the tool to the shoulder of the vial and to the neck thereof.

5. (Withdrawn) Tool according to claim 1, the two leaves have a longitudinal ribbing which is shaped and convex outwards from said hole so as to create a partial housing for the neck of the vial.

6. (Withdrawn) Tool according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the leaves has a window for visual inspection of a reference mark provided on the neck of the vial for indicating the direction of the pressure to be exerted for breakage of the vial neck.

7. (Currently Amended) A tool for facilitating breakage of the neck of a glass vial for pharmaceuticals, the tool comprising:

a box structure containing one or more vials with a neck to be broken, said box structure having a tool detachably connected thereto, said tool comprising a cardboard element with at least one pre-folded fold line defining a first finger receiving section and a second finger

receiving section, said first finger receiving section being symmetrical to said second finger receiving section, said cardboard element defining a glass vial receiving hole for receiving the neck of a glass vial, said pre-folded fold line being located on each side of said glass vial receiving hole in a direction transverse of a width of said cardboard element, said cardboard element being folded to a folded position when said cardboard element is detached from said box structure such that said first finger receiving section is opposite said second finger receiving section, said first finger receiving section and said second finger receiving section being adjacent to the neck of the glass vial when said cardboard element is in said folded position, said first finger receiving section and said second finger receiving section defining an abutment, whereby said abutment receives a force for breaking the neck of the glass vial.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) A tool according to claim 1, wherein one strip of cardboard is integrally connected to another strip of cardboard along pre-cut lines to form an integral strip of detachable individual tools, each tool being detachable from another tool such that one detached tool is used to remove the neck of the glass vial in a detached state.

10. (Withdrawn) A tool according to claim 9, wherein said integral strip of cardboard comprises a surface in excess of that forming the strip of tools to be detached, which excess surface is used for printing information relating to use of the tools and/or information of an

advertising nature and/or relating to the product contained in the vial of a packaging which also
5 contains said strip of tools.

11. (Withdrawn) A tool according to claim 10, wherein the surface in excess of the
strip of tools from which the strip of tools are obtained forms two zones which can be folded
over so as to form a three-layer assembly.

12. (Withdrawn) A tool according to claim 9, wherein said strip of tools is formed as
an appendage of a punched element for the formation of a box intended to form the packaging
for which said strip of tools is intended, said appendage being handled with the operations for
forming the box, being hinged by means of a folding line with a component of said punched
5 element.

13. (Currently Amended) A box for containing glass vials with a neck to be broken,
made with a punched element forming [[the]] walls of the box partly delimited by folding lines,
the box comprising:

an appendage protruding from one of the side walls of the box, said appendage forming
5 a strip of tools, [[one]] each tool being connected ~~to another~~ an adjacent tool [[along]] via a
pre-cut line in an attached state, one of said tools being detached from another of said tools in
a detached state, each tool having a hole for receiving a neck of a glass vial and two finger
engaging sections longitudinally extending on each side of said hole, each tool having a

transverse fold extending a width of said tool, one of said tools being folded along said transverse fold in said detached state such that the neck of the glass vial is perpendicular to said transverse fold when said glass vial is inserted into said hole.

14. (Currently Amended) A box according to claim 13, wherein said appendage is folded over at least twice and is glued in zones of [[the]] adjacent surfaces.

15. (Withdrawn) A box according to claim 12, wherein one of the two front walls is formed as a contour of a lid defined by a cut or pre-cut line and by a folding line forming a hinge.

16. (Withdrawn) A box according to claim 13, wherein said appendage forms at least one of the closing flaps of the box with which said appendage is hinged.

17. (Withdrawn) A box according to claim 16, wherein said appendage is engaged, against one of the front walls of the box, with the material of the hole of one of the strips which is defined by a pre-cut line, said material being glued to said front wall.

18. (Withdrawn) A box according to claim 16, wherein said appendage forms laterally both the closing flaps of the box.

19. (Currently Amended) A box for containing glass vials with a neck to be broken,
the box comprising:

a punched piece of cardboard having pre-folded lines defining two front walls, two side
walls, two closing flaps, an appendage and a strip of detachable tools, said piece of cardboard
being folded such that said appendage is connected to one of said side walls and one of said
front walls is opposite another front wall and one of said closing flaps is opposite another of
said closing flaps and one of said side walls is opposite another of said side walls to form a box
structure, whereby said strip of detachable tools is located within said box structure, said strip
of detachable tools being detached one by one from said box structure in a detached state for
removing a neck of a glass vial, each detachable tool having a hole for receiving a neck of a
glass vial and two finger engaging sections, each finger engaging section extending in a
longitudinal direction of said detachable tool, each detachable tool having a transverse fold
extending a width of said tool, one of said tools being folded along said transverse fold in said
detached state such that the neck of the glass vial is perpendicular to said transverse fold when
said glass vial is inserted into said hole.

20. (Previously Presented) A box in according to claim 19, wherein each finger
engaging section defines an abutment, whereby said abutment receives a force from an external
source for breaking the neck of the glass vial when one of said detachable tools is in said
detached state.

21. (Previously Presented) A box in according to claim 20, wherein one of said front walls is formed as a lid, said detachable strip of tools being folded under said lid such that said detachable strip of tools unfolds when said lid is lifted.